

## TO BREED ALL KINDS OF WILD ANIMALS.

### A Serious Plan on Foot in Califor- nia.

A ranch is about to be established at Merced, Cal., for the growing of wild animals. Elephants, tigers, leopards, lions, kangaroos and other beasts of jungle and forest are to be cultivated.

The annual crop of wild beasts is expected to be a large one, and the institution, it is thought, will pay for the start.

The proprietors of the Merced ranch are already in the wild animal business. The present ranch of five hundred acres has been bought in the name of Lewis Sells, one of the proprietors of Forepaugh & Sells Brothers' Circus, and the firm is endeavoring to secure a like amount of adjoining land.

George O. Starr, an agent for this firm, is now in Europe, securing animals for mating purposes on the California ranch. It is expected that in the general and equable California climate the animals will readily mate and grow large families.

The camel ranch is expected to be the most profitable part of this novel enterprise. Camels bred in captivity even better than in the wild state.

There is a tariff on camels to protect the American camel from the pauper camel of Europe. But the proprietors of the wild animal ranch will be able to get their camels and all other beasts in free of duty by swearing that they are being brought here for breeding purposes.

In addition to the camels to be bred for menagerie purposes, the circus men say they look for a market for their young camels to miners working on the Western deserts, where water is scarce and horses are useless.

The elephants on the California ranch are to be placed in a retreat resembling as closely as possible an African jungle.

The lions and tigers will be allowed to prowl through a miniature jungle, fenced in from the other dens of the ranch.

In a field inclosed by a fence sixteen feet high, which is now being built, there will be places for the elands, nyghaus, tigers and other antelopes.

A whole flock of kangaroos is to be turned loose. These animals, it is expected, will thrive well in California, which is already overrun with a species of miniature kangaroo, the jack rabbit.

A stream from the Hoffman-Crocker irrigating system is to be dammed up to make an artificial lake for a pair of hippopotami, where they will be left undisturbed for months at a time.

Immense numbers of tropical birds are to be bred. A large amphitheatre is to be erected, covered with glass, where the birds can retire when the weather is cool.

A fine wire netting will be spread over the trees in an inclosure, so that they may fly about in almost perfect freedom. Native Africans are being brought to America to take charge of animals and birds on the ranch whose habits they understand.

From this ranch, if it is a success, the proprietors expect to send out fine specimens of wild animals to menageries in all parts of the world.

The high prices which lions, tigers and other wild animals command will, it is thought, compensate for the trouble and expense of this vast establishment.

## A BOY WHO HAS NO SOUL.

With No Moral Nature, No Religious Feeling and No Sense of Right or Wrong, This Boy Is a Prodigy of Youthful Depravity.

MACK WOODSIDE, fourteen years old, is deaf and dumb, but his eyesight is keen and his powers of observation are so highly developed that his deafness does not prevent his knowing what is going on about him. There is not a boy in Atlanta, Ga., where Mack Woodside lives, who can build a better kite or make better showing at baseball or marbles, but his alertness of mind and body is in strange contrast to a deficiency far more important than his lack of speech and hearing.

Mack Woodside has no soul. There is no trace in his conduct of the existence of "the moral and emotional part of a man's nature, the seat of sentiments or feelings, in distinction from intellect." When he was old enough to read and write—and he learned to do both with great facility—his mother found that he utterly lacked the sense of right and wrong. He learned not to play with fire, because the fire hurt him. He acquired all of the caution which belongs to most sagacious animals, but he failed to show any growth of conscience.

He learned by experience, but not by intuition. On Tuesday last he was committed to the care of the State Institution at Cave Spring, Ga., because the police at Atlanta found it impossible to keep him in order. Whenever he saw a bicycle standing against the curbstone, unguarded, he rode away and hid it. No one could leave a horse and buggy in front of a store, for if Mack Woodside came along he would get into the wagon, drive the horse half to death, and then leave the turnout in the woods. And these barefaced thefts would be committed with such adroitness, the boy would wait patiently for a moment when no one was looking, that, although the police often knew quite well that he was guilty, they were never able to get clear evidence against him.

Superintendent Connor, of the Georgia Deaf and Dumb Asylum, who has made a careful study of the case, says that he believes it to be the only instance on record of a human being utterly without the rudimentary ideas of right and wrong, and yet possessing all the rest of his mental equipment. Mr. T. Mann-Jones, the scientist, who has devoted his life to the study of moral nature in domestic animals, contrasts with Woodside's conduct some instances of the action of conscience in horses and dogs, instances which are of great assistance in arriving at a just estimate of Woodside's moral responsibilities. Mr. Mann-Jones found in a dog called Punch, upon whom he experimented throughout eight consecutive years, a development of the sense of the sacredness of property. When he would pick up a rough bit of stick and give it to the dog to play with, the dog would seize it and crush it while he worked it. If, however, Mr. Mann-Jones let the dog take a smoothly dressed and finished walking stick, Punch would seize it in his mouth, but take the utmost care not to leave the mark of his teeth on it.

The dog's respect for the value of the object with which he was playing and his sense of moral obligation not to destroy property were shown by graduated experiments to be in immediate proportion to the amount of work and finish which the stick displayed. An umbrella was treated more carefully than any walking stick; a varnished cane much more carefully than an ash plant with the bark on it. An Indian cane, inlaid with mother-of-pearl, the dog refused to play with at all. Experiments of precisely the same sort have been tried with Mack Woodside, and it has been shown that his endeavor is to assert his power, to show his destructive force. If he is left alone in a room it amuses him to merely overturn or throw on the floor a rude object, like a wooden butter bowl. A mechanical egg beater, however, he would deliberately crush, and when he got hold of the kitchen clock one day he took it apart and hid the various parts of the movement in different places.

He does these things without the slightest desire to tease his mother, with absolute indifference as to whether she is inconvenienced or not. He merely wants to convince himself that it is in his power to silence the clock, to destroy the symmetry of a carefully manufactured article, to undo in a moment what some one has spent hours in doing. Another interesting comparison between Woodside's moral

sense and that of a dog is supplied by Mr. Mann-Jones's study of a little who was taught to have an equal regard for two brothers. The brothers then feigned to quarrel and attack each other. The dog throughout a long series of experiments invariably took the part of whichever brother it was who was struck and who went through the actions of trying to escape. Equally attached to them both, the animal defended the one whom he believed innocent against the one whom he believed to be the aggressor.

Woodside takes a diametrically opposite course. The sight of a big boy beating a little boy immediately arouses in his mind the desire to join in abusing the victim. If two boys of equal size quarrel he at once joins the aggressor. He wants to run with the pack and not with the quarry.

Superintendent Connor is going to try to train this boy just as an animal is trained. He has no hope of being able to im-

plant a soul in the strangely warped nature, but he believes that if for a certain length of time rewards and punishments follow obedience or misconduct as closely as they do in the practice of animal trainers, Woodside may be so far improved that he can be left at liberty without being a serious annoyance to the community at large.

All attempts to use the mechanism of religious training will, it is feared, prove to be hopeless. Woodside refuses absolutely to consider the possibility that he can be rewarded or punished by any power whose hand he does not see or feel. He has not even the dog's dread of a retributive superior who is in another room when the temptation presents itself, but who will come to punish if the offence is committed. Almost any dog can be left in a room where food is lying upon a table, if he has been plainly warned not to meddle with it.

Woodside, however, if he sees an object he wants and does not see the person who is going to punish him for taking it, makes no effort to restrain his greediness, and is apparently influenced by the belief that he is adroit enough to escape Scott-free.

This utter want of moral responsibility would be neither extraordinary nor interesting if it were accompanied by a want of mental capacity in other respects. But Superintendent Connor and other specialists who have had to do with Woodside find that he is not only brighter than other deaf-mutes, but brighter than ordinary boys of his age. And the case of a human being who has all of his powers except the power of discriminating between right and wrong, and is absolutely without that power, is altogether a novel case.

Those who have studied this remarkable youth agree that there is little cruelty in his nature beyond that ordinarily to be found in boys of his age. He is not especially vindictive, nor does he fly into a passion.

In other words, it has been observed that his reason seems at all times to govern his actions. His frequent flagrant dishonesty and intentional immorality can therefore not be ascribed to his losing his temper or being governed by evil passions. Neither does he do these things because of "pure cussedness." Careful observation of his life seems to prove an utter absence in his nature of the capacity to distinguish between right and wrong.

It is for this reason that he has been called "a boy without a soul." A criminologist, who has studied his actions, says that an instinctive knowledge of the elements of justice common to all humanity constitutes the soul as distinguished from the intelligence, and that Mack Woodside is conspicuously lacking in this. The same authority asserts that the worst and most depraved criminals show an inborn knowledge of the difference between right and wrong, and that their wickedness can be ascribed to the sway of evil passions, such as cruelty, revenge, jealousy, vindictiveness or envy.

It will be at least six months before any result can be expected from the methodical discipline to which the boy is now to be subjected, but when the experiment begins to bear fruit a most valuable and curious addition will have been made to the existing fund of psychiatric knowledge.

MACK WOODSIDE, THE BOY WITHOUT A SOUL.



## A NEW FIRE-LADDER AS A LIFE-SAVER.

With a Cradle to Carry People from a Fire.

A ladder which does not need support has been invented by a man who has made large fires a life study. Besides needing no support, this ladder can be raised at any angle from the street and will remain in any position when so raised.

It has a toboggan-like arrangement, or cradle of steel wire, which slides up and down the ladder, being worked by a steel wire and pulley. The object of this is that invalids or children who cannot, without great difficulty, be removed and carried down the ladder in the usual way, may be securely strapped in this steel socket and lowered down the inclined ladder to a place of safety.

The first of these life saving ladders has been tested at Seneca Falls, N. Y. It consists of a heavy truck, constructed of the strongest channel steel, thoroughly trussed to withstand the strain of raising an extension ladder, which is the chief feature of the machine. The ladder is made in sliding sections, which make it possible to telescope the ladder within itself, as it were, when not in use, and allows it to be carried like an ordinary ladder lying in the truck.

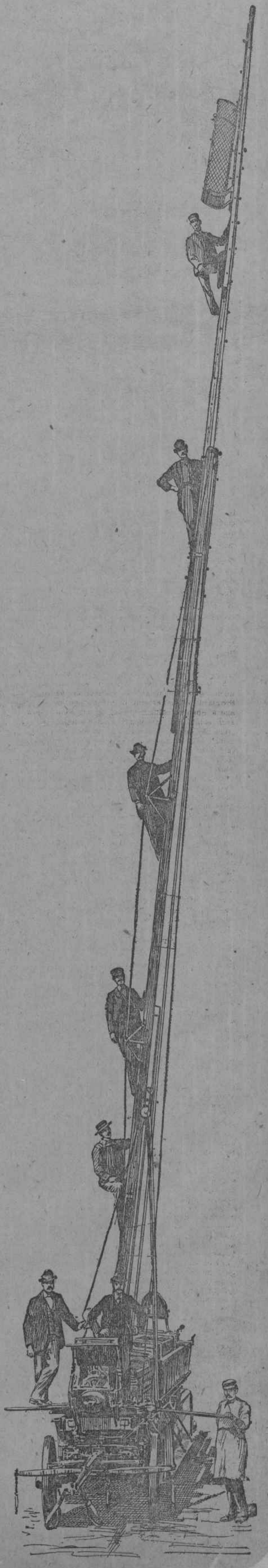
Two men standing on the front platform can, by the simple turning of a lever, raise the ladder section by section, at any desired angle. It can also be run with its entire length at right angles with the body of the truck, and still be in no danger of falling. Its various sections slide out one over the other, and are held in place by steel straps and trusses, which render it stiff and firm. The total weight of the machine is about 4,000 pounds, or nearly one ton lighter than any other truck and ladder ever put upon the market.

It is believed that the difficulties of making a rescue by the old method of scaling ladders, ropes and life-saving nets have been overcome by this aerial extension ladder. Trolley, electric light, and telephone wires do not in the least interfere with its workings, as they can easily be avoided by the ladder, because when extended it can be moved in any direction. The truck can be placed out in the middle of the street and the ladder run up to almost any height, and by having its base so far removed from the burning building, avoid the flames as they break out of the windows.

When the occupants of one floor have been safely removed, the ladder can be withdrawn from the window and raised to the next floor, and in this manner the imprisoned occupants of the building can be taken from their perilous position.

The aerial ladder can be raised or lowered inside of ten seconds.

While under the old system the firemen would take their ladders from the truck, carry them burning to the building, and then raise them, one after the other, the aerial ladder and truck is driven into position near the fire, and the simple turning of a crank sends the long, slender framework high aloft toward the imprisoned tenants on the upper floors, thus giving the fire fighters a means of passing the smoke and flames from the body of the building.



## Terrible Things Going to Happen.

Weather Prophet Coles Predicts Cyclones, a Meteor, Earthquakes and a Shower of Queer Bugs for September.

### FORECAST FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

More heat to come.

Prepare to meet a Winter without a Fall. Prices in the mercantile trade will advance. Heavy gales will sweep along the sea coast. Another meteor is headed toward the earth.

Showers of strange looking bugs will occur in some sections.

Tornadoes and equatorial cyclones will extend along the sea coasts.

The Atlantic sea coast will be in danger of a miniature tidal wave.

Tornadoes and electrical storms will do much damage in all parts of the country.

A regular "gold" cyclone will sweep across the Atlantic and centre in New York City.

Strikes and riots will appear and disappear. Better times are near at hand and nothing can stay their coming. Yellow lightning will make its appearance and cause vegetation and leaves to turn yellow. The cholera may appear.

A very annoying little microbe will attack the skin of all persons born under the planet Mercury, and cause an itching irritation almost unbearable.

The lucky days of September will be the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 21st, 22d, 23d, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th for all except those born under the planets Mercury and Venus.

Li Hung's coffin was his great assurance, and the loss of it may prove the death of this distinguished Chinaman, as the planets foretell the death of some great ruler this month.

September will prove a phenomenal month. A sea of vaporous matter is now approaching the sun, which will cause intense heat in some sections, followed by a cool wave, resulting in frost, hail and snow. The planets are in a position this month to produce yellow lightning, which will be the greatest phenomena ever witnessed, and will prove a great stimulant to mankind, animal kind and vegetable kind, for a short time only; for, when the reaction sets in, it will affect vegetation, trees, etc., the same as the frost microbe does, and will cause the leaves to turn yellow long before their appointed time.

The vital forces of all human, animal and vegetable life will be at "high flood" nearly one-half of the whole month, for the first time in three years. Jupiter, our financial stimulator, has come from behind the sun, and old, red warrior Mars is side-tracked in sign Taurus—the Bull. Therefore we may look for some very great changes in the weather, in politics and in business.

There will be another meteor fall this month.

Great political changes will take place and great preparations for the renewal of business will be begun. Several beautiful sunset scenes will take place—watch them all. The electrical currents are still moving eastward; should they make a sudden turn—as they are liable to do at any time—a terrible cyclone will sweep the Atlantic coast and extend far inland.

The Atlantic coast is in imminent danger of a miniature tidal

wave. Earthquakes and strange phenomena, tidal waves and floods, riots and wars, accidents and terrible deeds among the savages, deadly heat and fatal epidemics, storms, etc., will carry thousands away to death.

Terrible storms will sweep over the country when this matter passes away from the sun, on or about the 20th of October. On or about the 20th of this month a break will occur, so that the rays of the sun can escape; this will produce destructive storms for a series of several days. September may prove our Fall month this year. Old Winter is liable to drop down upon us suddenly and unexpectedly, as did the snow storm in August.

The eclipse of the moon, occurring as it did, foretells riot and bloodshed, dissatisfaction and uneasiness. Discontent will prevail among the industrial and producing classes. There will be a violent struggle to overthrow the existing state of affairs. Mercantile prices will advance and then recede.

A reactionary "gold" storm will sweep across the Atlantic. Many great men and rulers will die, fevers and epidemics of disease will occur, and there will be an unusual fatality among cattle and sheep, and corruption of trees that are fruitful.

New forms of microbes will appear and showers of strangely formed bugs and flies will occur. Tornadoes and equatorial cyclones will extend along the sea coasts.

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